C. Remarks

Based on the amendments above and remarks to follow, reconsideration of this application and entry of this amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested. This amendment is properly enterable under Rule 116 since it places the application in condition for allowance.

In this Office action, claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14, 19, and 20 were allowed as set forth under 'Allowable Subject Matter' of the Office action (Page 2, Office action). Claims 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention was considered to be directed to non-statutory subject matter. Further, claims 1–2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,115,646 assigned to Fiszman, et al, hereinafter referred to as Fiszman; and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,772,204 assigned to Hansen.

In response to the rejections cited above, amendments required to make the claims allowable have been made to the claims. Further, claims 1 and 15 have been amended.

Descriptions and Differences of the Claims from the Cited Art

To more clearly define and distinctly claim the present invention from the cited art, and to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, independent claim 1 has been amended.

The preamble of independent claim 1 recites a method for capturing administrative processes in a machine-readable format, the administrative processes being processes that need to be implemented by an administrator for achieving different objectives in a local or a networked environment. The preamble further recites that the administrative processes comprise administrative tasks, and the administrative tasks comprise administrative commands. Support for these recitations is found in the present application on page 6, lines 2-10; and page 7, lines 5-12.

Clause (a) of independent claim 1 as amended recites creating a generic command framework in a machine-readable format to capture administrative commands used in the administrative processes by capturing structures of all types of the administrative commands, wherein the structures of all types of the administrative commands are captured by writing the administrative commands in the machine-readable format, in accordance with the generic command framework. Support for these recitations is found in the present application on page 4, lines 9-12; page 7, lines 18-24; page 14, lines 1-4; and page 20, lines 6-7.

In the present application, clause (a) of independent claim 1 as amended recites a generic command framework, which is created in a machine-readable format. The generic command framework as recited is used to capture one or more structures of administrative commands, which are used in administrative processes. The administrative commands, as recited, are said to be captured when the administrative commands are written in accordance with the machine-readable format as used by the generic command framework.

The generic command framework used for capturing the one or more structures of the administrative commands means *the generic command framework is capable of capturing the different structures (or different machine-readable formats) of the administrative commands.* Thus *the administrative commands written in different structures are captured using a machine-readable format, as used by the generic command framework.* For instance, an administrative command is written in one machine-readable format such as Linux Shell, and another administrative command is written in a different machine-readable format, i.e., other than Linux Shell, and now both the administrative commands with different structures are captured (written) using the machine-readable format, for example, XML, as used by the generic command framework. Since the generic command framework as recited is used to capture the different structures of the administrative commands, therefore, *the need to use different frameworks for capturing different structures of the administrative commands is completely eliminated by the steps of clause (a) of claim 1 of the present application.*

Also, the complexity involved in using a generic command framework to capture the different structures of the administrative commands is reduced. Support for these recitations is found in the present application on page 4, lines 9-15; page 7, lines 18-28; page 8, lines 1-10; and page 20, lines 6-10. In addition, since the generic command framework is used to capture the structures of the administrative commands, which are used in the administrative processes, therefore it can be said that the purpose of using the generic command framework is to implement the administrative processes for achieving administration in a local or networked environment.

In contrast, Fiszman discloses a Generic Process Automation Engine (GPAE), which is a distributed object-oriented and pattern-oriented workflow environment. *The GPAE as disclosed in Fiszman provides workflow management services, whereas the generic command framework as recited in claim 1 of the present application is used for implementing the administrative processes for achieving administration in the local or the networked environment.* The GPAE as disclosed in Fiszman can be used for creating new roles, modeling new processes, and adding new services at run time. Further, the GPAE as disclosed in Fiszman is used to capture a process definition (see column 3, lines 35–40; column 4, lines 5–15; column 5, lines 45–51; and column 17, lines 25–28 of Fiszman). The process definition as disclosed is defined by Workflow Management Coalition (WFMC 97) and refers to business processes. *The business processes as disclosed are related to, for example, ordering management, inventory control, and banking, health and government services*. However, clause (a) of claim 1 of the present application captures the administrative commands included in the administrative processes. The *administrative processes as recited in clause (a) of claim 1 of the present application are related to, for example, security management of the network or firewall management of the network*, and thus, are different from the business processes or the process definition as disclosed in Fiszman.

Furthermore, the process definition as disclosed in Fiszman is captured graphically (see column 5, lines 45–50 of Fiszman). The process definition captured graphically as disclosed in Fiszman means the process definition is represented

diagrammatically by using nodes or links (see Figure 16(b) of Fiszman). However, the administrative commands as recited in clause (a) of claim 1 of the present application are captured in the machine-readable format, i.e., a language understood by the machine. The machine-readable format to capture the administrative commands, as recited in clause (a) of claim 1, has no correlation with the capturing of the process definition graphically or the graphical representation of the process definition as disclosed in Fiszman. Moreover, Fiszman fails to disclose the use of the GPAE for capturing different structures of the process definition, whereas clause (a) of claim 1 of the present application recites the generic command framework to capture different structures of the administrative commands.

In addition, *the GPAE as disclosed in Fiszman requires common object request broker architecture (CORBA)* to execute processes, and thus, the GPAE is dependent on the CORBA for execution, whereas the generic command framework as recited in clause (a) of claim 1 of the present application is not dependent on CORBA to capture different structures of the administrative commands.

Therefore, the generic command framework used to capture the structures of the administrative commands in the machine-readable format as recited in clause (a) of claim 1 of the present application is completely distinct from the GPAE to capture the process definition graphically as disclosed in Fiszman.

Clause (b) of independent claim 1 as amended recites generating profiles that define the administrative tasks, the profiles are generated by combining all the captured administrative commands in the machine-readable format. Further, clause (b) recites that the profiles are collections of the captured administrative commands that define an administrative task, the profiles are generated by a profile generator. Furthermore, the clause (b) recites that the profiles are the machine-readable version of the administrative tasks, wherein the captured administrative commands when executed accomplish the administrative task. Support for these recitations is found in the present application on page 5, lines 5-6; and page 9, lines 14-18.

In the present application, clause (b) of independent claim 1 as amended recites generating profiles that define administrative tasks. The profiles as recited are generated by combining the captured administrative commands in the machine-readable format. Since the profiles include the captured administrative commands, which are included in the administrative processes, thus it can be said that the purpose of generating the profiles is to implement the administrative processes to achieve administration in the local or networked environment. *The profiles generated for performing the administrative processes in the local or networked environment include, for example, changing the firewall for the network to an appropriate security level. Further, the profiles as recited are generated by a profile generator (a module), which means that the profiles are generated automatically* without requiring human intervention. In addition, *the profiles as recited represent the machine-readable version* of the administrative tasks, the administrative tasks including the administrative commands. The profiles being the machine-readable version of the administrative tasks as recited in clause (b) of claim 1 refer to the format or language, that is understood by the machine (support for these recitations is found in the present application on page 5, lines 5-6; page 9, lines 14-18; and page 20, lines 12-14).

In contrast, Fiszman discloses the process definition, which is associated with activities, links, and conditions (see column 17, lines 25–33 of Fiszman). The process definition as disclosed refers to the business processes and has been described above in detail in conjunction with the description of clause (a) of claim 1, and therefore, it is completely distinct from the profiles, which include the administrative commands to implement administrative processes in the local or networked environment. Further, *Fiszman fails to disclose that the process definition is the machine-readable version*, whereas *the profiles as recited in clause (b) of claim 1 of the present application are the machine-readable version* (machine understandable language) of the administrative tasks. Furthermore, the process definition as disclosed in Fiszman is created by roles, the roles refer to human actions or inputs; thus, the *creation of the process definition requires human intervention (see column 5, lines 20–24 of Fiszman*). However, *the*

profiles as recited in clause (b) of claim 1 are generated or created by the profile generator, i.e., the profiles are generated automatically; thus, the generation of the profiles does not require any human intervention.

In addition, the process definition as disclosed in Fiszman includes a sub-process "admin". The sub-process "admin" is the process definition interpreted by the GPAE, and acts as a template for creation and control of process instances of the process during process enactment. Also, the sub-process "admin" as disclosed in Fiszman when executed issues an event, and is received by the work list menu (see column17, line 58– column 18, line 63). However, the profiles as recited in clause (b) of claim 1 of the present application include the administrative commands, the administrative commands refers to the instructions which are understandable by the machine, whereas the sub-process "admin" as disclosed in Fiszman refers to the template used for controlling the process instances during the process enactment, and does not refer to the machine understandable instructions. The applicant respectfully submits that the while the terminology used in Fiszman, such as "admin", seems to be similar to the terminology as used in the present application such as "administrative commands"; however, these terms have been defined, as discussed above, and are completely distinct from each other.

Accordingly, generating the profiles by the profile generator, as recited in clause (b) of claim 1 of the present application, is not the same as the creation of the process definition by the human inputs as disclosed in Fiszman.

Clause (c) of independent claim 1 as amended recites generating network maps, each network map comprising details of one or more servers in the networked environment on which the administrative tasks defined by the profiles need to be performed. Further, clause (c) of independent claim 1 recites that the network maps are generated by a network map generator. Support for these recitations is found in the present application on page 4, lines 14-16; page 5, lines 5-7; page 9, lines 19-23; and page 16, lines 6-8.

In the present application, clause (c) of independent claim 1 as amended recites generating network maps. The network maps include the details of one or more servers in the networked environment on which the administrative tasks are executed. Further, the network maps are generated by a network map generator (a module). This means that the network maps are generated automatically, and the generation of the network maps does not require any human intervention (support for these recitations is found in the present application on page 4, lines 14–16; page 5, lines 5–7; page 9, lines 19–23; and page 16, lines 6–8).

In contrast, Hansen discloses configuring one or more network devices using configuration scripts associated with the one or more network devices. The configuration scripts as disclosed in Hansen executes to obtain configuration files, connection rules, and other configuration information that is required to configure the one or more network devices. Further, Hansen discloses constructing/generating network configuration maps, which include at least two interconnected network devices and information related to the configuration of the one or more network devices (see column 5, lines 26–36; and column 11, lines 50–64 of Hansen). This means that *the purpose of the network configuration maps as disclosed in Hansen is related to the configuration of the one or more network devices, whereas the network maps as recited in clause (c) of claim 1 of the present application are used for executing the administrative tasks and for implementing the administrative processess to achieve administration in the local or networked environment.*

In addition, generation of the network configuration maps as disclosed in Hansen requires *constructing the configuration files to configure the one or more network devices. Thus, the network configuration maps as disclosed in Hansen are dependent on the generation of the configuration files*, whereas *the generation of the network maps as recited in clause (c) of claim 1 of the present application is not dependent on the generation of the configuration files.*

Therefore, generating the network maps as recited in clause (c) of claim 1 of the present application is completely distinct from constructing the network configuration maps as disclosed in Hansen.

Clause (d) of independent claim 1 as amended recites generating admin lists by combining one or more profiles that define administrative tasks, which constitute an administrative process. Further, clause (d) of independent claim 1 recites the admin lists comprise a pre-defined order in which the administrative tasks need to be executed, the admin lists are generated by an admin list generator, whereby each admin list captures the administrative process in a machine-readable format, which is processed for automating execution of the administrative process, the steps of the method are implemented by a processing machine. Support for these recitations is found in the present application on page 4, lines 15-18 and lines 22-24; page 5, lines 5-7; page 9, lines 24-29; page 10, lines 1-4; and page 16, lines 10-16.

In the present application, clause (d) of independent claim 1 as amended recites generating admin lists. Further, the admin lists as recited, are generated by combining the profiles, which define the administrative tasks, and the administrative tasks are included in the administrative processes. Since the admin lists define the administrative processes, this means that the purpose of generating the admin lists is to implement the administrative processes to achieve administration in the local or networked environment. The admin lists as recited in clause (d) of claim 1 of the present application can be, for example, an attack admin list, an all-clear admin list, and a closed admin list. Furthermore, the admin lists as recited in clause (d) of claim 1 of the present application define the administrative processes, which are executed automatically. In addition, the admin lists as recited are generated by an admin list generator (a module). This means that the admin lists are generated automatically, and thus, the generation of the admin lists does not require any human intervention (support for these recitations is found in the present application on page 4, lines 15–18 and lines 22–24; page 5, lines 5–7; page 9, lines 24–29; page 10, lines 1–4; and page 16, lines 10–16).

In contrast, Fiszman discloses a work list menu, which includes a list of activities to be performed by roles. The list of activities performed by the roles means the list of activities are performed or implemented by humans, and thus, the lists of activities included in the work list menu *requires human intervention* (see column 9, lines 5–10 of Fiszman). However, the administrative processes defined by the admin lists as recited in clause (d) of claim 1 of the present application are executed automatically *without requiring any human intervention*. Further, the list of activities as disclosed in Fiszman includes, for example, dead line, owner, subject, and task_type (see Figure 6 of Fiszman). The list of activities simply refers to the activities related to the business processes. However, the admin lists as recited in clause (d) of claim 1 of the present application relate to the activities for implementing/executing the administrative processes to achieve administration in the local or networked environment. Thus, the list of activities for the business processes as disclosed in Fiszman is completely distinct from the admin lists for implementing the administrative processes in the local or networked environment. Therefore, the admin lists defining the administrative processes as recited in clause (d) of claim 1 of the present application are completely different from the work list menu that includes the list of activities as disclosed in Fiszman. In addition, Fiszman fails to disclose the automatic creation or generation of the work list menu or the list of activities, whereas clause (d) of claim 1 of the present application recites the automatic generation of the admin lists and automatic execution of the administrative processes.

Therefore, generating the admin lists, which define the administrative processes as recited in clause (d) of claim 1 of the present application, is different from the work list menu, which includes the list of activities as disclosed in Fiszman.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that it is not obvious to one skilled in the art to capture administrative processes in the machine-readable format to achieve different objectives in a networked environment. In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 has steps that are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in

view of Fiszman and further in view of Hansen. Therefore, reconsideration of independent claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 is a dependent claim to claim 1. In light of the amendments made to independent claim 1, dependent claim 2 is therefore neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of Fiszman and further in view of Hansen.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10–12, 14, 19, and 20 were allowed as set forth in the 'Allowable Subject Matter' section on page 2 of the final Office action. Therefore, passage to issue claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10–12, 14, 19, and 20 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C § 101 by including the term 'computer storage medium' as suggested by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the amended independent claim 15 now clearly recites statutory subject matter, and therefore, reconsideration of independent claim 15 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 16–17, in light of amendments made to independent claim 15, therefore, also recite statutory subject matter. Therefore, reconsideration of claims 16–17 is respectfully requested.

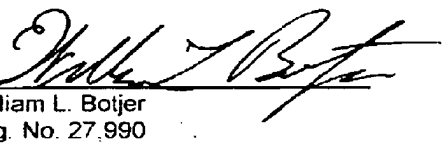
Conclusion

In light of the above and in view of the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 15, dependent claims 2, and 16–17, the present invention, as described in the present claims, is clearly patentable over Fiszman and Hansen. Please note that claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10–12, 14, 19, and 20 are allowed as set forth in 'Allowable Subject Matter' of the final Office action. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 15 are sufficient to overcome the rejections under section 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) and 35 U.S.C. § 101.

The present claims have been amended to highlight the distinctions of the present invention over the cited art, and it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now clearly patentable over the art of record, and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If the examiner has any questions regarding this matter, the examiner is requested to telephone the applicant's attorney at the numbers listed below, prior to issuing a further action so as to avoid the need for Appeal or an RCE.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: April 16, 2009

By 

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